Mr. A. Eachara Menon's Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

PRESIDENT.

The next item is the Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill to be introduced by Mr. Eachara Menon.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

Sir, I beg to propose that my Bill to amend the Municipal Regulation be read in Council.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

Sir, I second it.

PRESIDENT.

The Bill has been sought to be introduced and duly seconded. Do you like to explain the objects of the Bill ?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

I have already said that the time allowed for a Chairman is two years. This is quite insufficient for the Chairman and other members to understand the work that has to be carried on in the Municipality as well as in the office. By the time they come to know something of it, one budget and one Administration Report would have been out of their hands. Then there will be only one year left, after they have studied something of Municipal work. It is quite insufficient for the Chairman or for the Councillors to do any tangible work for which they have been selected. I request that the period may be extended by one year. This has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Trichur Municipal Council and the Municipalities of Malabar who had only two years at first, had it extended to three years.

PRESIDENT.

There is another part of the Bill which relates to a diferent matter.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

Yes, Sir, almost all the sections of the Nuisance Regulation of 1098 were considered necessary for the administration of the Town Council, for those sections were included in the Town Council Act, in Regulation 1 of 1085, under sections 80 to 95 of the Regulation. When the Regulation XI of 1096 came to be drafted, the compilers missed these sections mentioned *in seriatim* in the District Municipalities Act, and hence they did not find a place in our Regulation. When they came to section 357 the Municipal Act corresponding to section 275 of our Regulation they found the

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words "and of the Madras Town Nuisance Act of 1889", and were handicapped; for our Nuisance Regulation came into force only as IV of 1098, and they coolly left it out.

PRESIDENT.

And the Municipal Regulation?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

In 1096. In the District Municipal Act it was clearly stated under section 357, "of the Madras Town Nuisance Act" which could not be incorporated here for want of a Nuisance Act then.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

May I know if the mover had to give up any of his schemes for want of sufficient time? It is only for information.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

I had no schemes during the first year.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

May I know how long the member has been a Municipal Chairman?

PRESIDENT.

What is the necessity for all this?

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

That is necessary, because, if he had been a Chairman for a large number of years, and if he had not been able to complete so many schemes, then that will add weight to this amendment.

PRESIDENT.

This matter is introduced not with reference to any particular Chairman, so that his personal experience, whatever the period be, has no bearing in this case.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

We are only to have a theoretical discussion of the matter.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Achyuta Menon, do you support or oppose?

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

So far as the amendment with regard to the terms of the Chairman of the Council is concerned, to extend it to three years, Sir, I propose the amendment, but as regards the vesting of powers under the Nuisance Regulation to the Muncipality, I oppose that amendment. Of course, it is not always very advisable to bring into existence, against public view, other persons vested with Police powers, when there is an efficient police force. As found from the reports of two Commissioners of

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Police, Mr. Krishna Menon and the other the present Commissioner, both are against it. They say that cases of nuisance are detected and, they are found equal to the work. These are instances they suggest. They object to the amendment.

PRESIDENT.

I think you object to one portion of the amendment only.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

The term may be extended to three years. As for the 2nd part, I oppose it.

Mr. O. R. CHUMMAR.

Is the first portion supported by the Government or is the Government neutral ?

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Government support.

PRESIDENT.

Government is in favour of the first portion

Dr. A. R. MENON.

Sir, the first portion of the Bill is to extend the term of the Chairman to three years and the other for vesting Police powers under the Nuisance Regulation in the Municipalities. Both these recommendations were made to the Government after due deliberation and with unanimity of opinion, two years ago by the Trichur Municipality, and for all the trouble we had taken, not even a word was received as reply. They never mentioned whether they were going to consider this question. They simply kept silent and sent us a word, "recorded ".

It seems to me that this word "recorded" is kept printed in the Huzur Office to be despatched whenever they choose without scrutinising properly the representations that have been made after due deliberation and consideration, to the Government. I am very glad to know, that with the advent of the Legislative Council, the Huzur Secretariat has begun to consider these questions.

As regards the second part, the objection raised is that two successive Police Commissioners are opposed to it. That alone is not sufficient to decide this point. Naturally, they consider this to be an infringement of their rights. We are not concerned with their work, but we are concerned with the Municipality. I shall be able to produce records to show to this Council or to the Government that nearly 14 months' correspondence has passed between the Commissioner of Police— not the present Commissioner, but his predecessor—and the Chairman, request-

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ing help and protesting, over and over again, that the Police were indifferent in looking after the nuisance cases of the Municipality, and it had become consequently a source of great danger. In spite of all these protests, Government will be surprised to know that *no action whatsoever* was taken.

PRESIDENT.

Was the matter brought to the notice of the Government?

Dr. A. R. MENON.

They never used to take any notice of our representations. In spite of it, however, this matter was brought to their notice. What is the object? All we claimed was that the higher officials, for example, the Sanitary Inspectors and Overseers must have power to detain people who committed nuisance and hand them over to the nearest Police Station or to the Policeman. We did not ask any power to detain these people in their custody. You may ask how it will help matters. Sanitary Inspectors and Overseers are subordinates of the Chairman, and his orders are being carried out by them. But, unfortunately, though the Chairman is responsible to the Government and the public for the public health of the town, he has no control whatever over the Police. It is a matter for regret that, in many instances, our recommendations have not been treated with the consideration they deserve. The point raised by the Commissioner is this. In cases like this, arrest can only be made by one who is versed in Criminal Jurisprudence. I am very glad that your Policemen are considered competent to do this work, whereas officers who are drawing 60 and 70 in the Municipality are not competent to perform the work done by ordinary Policemen. I do not know to what extent their knowledge of Criminal Jurisprudence entitles them to claim any priority over these people. I am also happy to say, on this occasion, that, with the advent of the present Commissioner, all our requests have been very promptly attended to.

I do not know what the Government is going to do with the other part of the amendment. The present Chairmen are elected only for two years. In my opinion, if you are going to change it to three years, it should come into force only after the next election. It should not be given retrospective effect.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

A word more. Almost all the sections of the Nuisance Act have been included in the Town Councils Regulation. I do not see what objection the Government have for incorporating it in the Municipal Regulation.

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The motion for reading the title of the Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill brought in by Mr. A. Eachara Menon and duly seconded was put to votes and carried.

The Council Secretary read the title of the Bill.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

I request that this Bill need not be referred to the Select Committee.

PRESIDENT.

You do not want it to be referred to the Select Committee?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

No, Sir. I request the President to suspend the rule as to the lapsing of 15 days.

PRESIDENT.

I suspend the operation of the Standing Order and allow the motion for discussion of the Bill in Council to be made at once.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The motion for considering the Bill in Council, duly seconded by Mr. Chakko, was put to votes and carried.

PRESIDENT.

Any amendments to the proposed Bill?

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Sir, I beg to move that clause 4 of the Bill be deleted.

Mr. V. K. ARAVINDAKSHA MENON.

Sir, I beg to second it.

PRESIDENT.

Will you please answer Mr. Eachara Menon, regarding some doubt as to the change in the Municipal Regulation?

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Is it regarding the existence of the clause in the old Regulation?

PRESIDENT.

Some reference was made to the old Regulation. That may be looked into.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

These sections are absent from the new Municipal Regulation.

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Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

They were omitted in the new Regulation, because they were not in the British Municipal Act.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Do you refer to the old Regulation or the new Regulation ?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

I refer to the old one, from sections 88 to 95.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

These are nuisance, penalty, driving vehicle without light, &c. Our present Municipal Regulation does not contain these sections.

PRESIDENT.

What I want to know is whether there are provisions investing the Municipal Officers with powers like these. What is the objection to incorporate such powers in our Municipal Regulation? These powers are now conferred by the British Municipalities Act on Municipal servants.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

It is said that Government may empower any Municipal servant for the purpose of this Regulation to exercise these powers, i. e., that of a Police Officer.

PRESIDENT.

Are all these sections contained in the Madras Town Nuisances Act? Has the Government there invested the Municipal servants with these powers?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

They may be empowered.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Where is it empowered?

PRESIDENT.

A provision in the Act is one thing and empowering is another.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

If these powers are utilised, then there is no necessity for a Presidency Magistrate.

PRESIDENT.

Now it will come to this, Mr. Eachara Menon:— Power is conferred there. That power has not been exercised, at all. So far as we are concerned why do we want a power that we are not going to exercise?

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Dr. A. R. MENON.

Some of these powers are conferred upon the Sanitary Inspectors. I do not exactly remember what the powers are. According to the new Municipal Regulation, the Municipal servants are not vested with any such power for charging nuisance cases, and that was the point we raised to the Government for giving such power to the Municipal servants. There was a cry from the rich people and the general public that the Government should entrust some men in order to put an end to these nuisance cases. We are not given the power at least to charge the persons and hand over those people to the Police, and our idea was this:—If some power is conferred upon the Municipal servants, then, as soon as they charge any person for a nuisance case, they can hand him over to the Police or at the Station, and then their function is over. Our officers should have some such power.

PRESIDENT.

In British India have they got the power to arrest?

Dr. A. R. MENON.

They have made some alterations in the Madras Nuisances Act. There the Municipal servants can charge the person and hand over to the Police, I think.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

They are not so empowered.

PRESIDENT.

Have they the power to take notice of thsee and hand them over to the Police?

Dr. A. R. MENON.

If they are not given at least this power, how are we to check these. Sir, that is a difficult problem. The Police do not make the arrests, for they could not always be on the spot to make the arrests.

PRESIDENT.

The Police Officers must be kept under watch.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

In the early morning, can you imagine for a moment that these Police Officers will take the trouble of going out in cold weather to make arrests of nuisance cases. But if this power is vested with the Municipal servants, then they could be made to take notice of such cases, and then they could easily put an end to these nuisance cases. We have the power to carry out these things.

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PRESIDENT.

When I was the District Magistrate, many years before the Municipal Regulation was introduced, I was also handling nuisance cases like that. The Police were asked to be vigilant and patrol the places where nuisance cases are likely to be found. After this, for a time, the nuisance cases came to a stop. That was some ten years ago.

Mr. S. S. KODER.

In British Cochin the Council empowers the Sanitary Inspectors and the maistries with this power, and generally it is done. Otherwise they are not empowered.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Is it done in British Cochin?

Mr. S. S. KODER.

Yes, it is done.

PRESIDENT.

The power is with the Government. The Government exercises that power. So that, to some extent, Mr. Eachara Menon is right there.

Mr. S. S. KODER.

Here I may state that this power is not given for all time, but only on some occasions. Further, the Regulation does not give them this power, but the Council it is that gives the power.

PRESIDENT.

Only on specific occasions it is given. Is it so?

Mr. S. S. KODER.

Certain Sanitary Inspectors will have that power.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

The Sanitary Inspectors are empowered.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

I also can quote here an instance. In Kalpathi, a village in the Palghat Municipality, the Municipal officers are empowered to do such things. There the Municipal servant makes the charge on the nuisance case, and the party concerned is brought before the Bench Magistrate. Now, the power is given to the Municipal officers by the Municipal Council. It was once possessed by the Collector. As far as the Palghat Municipality is concerned, this power is given only to certain persons whose name is not mentioned, and the charging authority is the Sanitary Inspector.

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DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

I think he simply takes down the name of the party who actually commits the nuisance, but no arrest is made by him.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Yes, it is so. He takes down the name and he informs the Police authorities.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I wish to raise a point of order, Sir. The complete deletion of a clause will not be considered as an amendment. It has been ruled so on a previous occasion.

PRESIDENT.

But, Mr. Salem, there were two clauses in that case. There the deletion would have negatived the whole Bill.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

The procedure according to the Standing Order is, when an amendment is brought in to delete a whole clause, it will not come to an amendment. It has been ruled so.

PRESIDENT.

Here there are two different clauses relating to two distinct matters. Government may accept the amendment.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

That the Government may do. Is it not proper for the Government to go by way of an amendment of the Bill itself?

PRESIDENT.

When one section or one clause in which the whole principle is involved is sought to be deleted, the whole Bill goes. But here the principle of the whole Bill is not negatived. I can allow the amendment. Here there are two clauses. By the deletion of the one, the principle of the whole Bill is not negatived.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

When I proposed an amendment to the Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill—that Rs. 3,000 should be changed to Rs. 2,000 as the limit—you ruled that the amendment would be negativing the whole Bill, and that it would not come to an amendment, and it was ruled that it was out of order altogether, although the amendment was proposed and seconded. The objection was it cut at the root of the section altogether, and so it could not be moved as an amendment at all. The only procedure that we could then find out from the Standing Order is that, when a clause is read, and if we oppose it, we can simply say we would not pass that. So it would not be an amendment.

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when the whole clause is sought to be deleted. Then there is nothing to amend. It will not be an amendment to the particular clause, for the whole clause is deleted.

PRESIDENT.

What is the provision regarding amendments here? S. O' 38. A Bill may consist of several parts and of several sections. Suppose a member has only objection to one particular clause, and agrees that all the other clauses may remain in the Bill. Then he can oppose that clause and prevent the passing of it in the Council. Is there any objection to the deletion of the clause which would amount to an amendment to the Bill but would not be negativing the principle of the whole Bill. I do not know whether there is any reasonable objection to be raised to such an amendment.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I think it was ruled the other day the deletion of a clause would not come to an amendment. There were two clauses in the Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill. When I brought an amendment to delete one clause out of that Regulation, it was not considered to be an amendment.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

That ruling was correct. There the amendment, if passed, would have negatived the principle of the whole Bill.

PRESIDENT.

In the Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill, there were two sections, one with regard to the Full Bench and the Division Bench and the other about the appeals under special Regulations. The amendment was proposed *when the President began to read the Bill, clause by clause, when the amendment of the clause alone was contemplated.* You cannot propose the deletion of the clause at that stage.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Is not the amendment now proposed a deletion of the clause which is an amendment to the Bill? That is the difference. Under Standing Order 38 it is an amendment to the Bill that is contemplated. Under Standing Order No. 41 it is amendment to the clause. That makes the whole difference. The deletion of a clause becomes an amendment to a Bill, but the deletion of a clause will not be an amendment to a clause.

PRESIDENT.

Why was the amendment ruled out?

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Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

No amendment should negative the original proposition. That was why it was ruled out.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

Sir, may I know, whether, other amendments are to be moved only after this amendment is disposed of ?.

PRESIDENT.

You may move an amendment at this stage.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

Then I have another amendment. With your permission, Sir, I move that sections 2 and 3 shall not form part of the Bill.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ.

Then there is nothing left in the Bill.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

I shall give my reasons for moving this amendment. I am not at all satisfied by the reasons advanced by the mover of the Bill for extending the two years, term of the Municipal Councils to three years. In this connection, I may state that the Municipal Regulation that was in existence before the present one had provided for a life of three years for the Councillors and two years for the Chairman, and the present Regulation fixed the life of the Chairman and the Councillors at two years. Now, we are following the practice that is obtaining almost throughout British India.

RAO SAHIB Mr. T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR.

It is three years.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

In several places the term of the Chairman is two years. Whatever that be, Sir, there is absolutely no justification for extending the period. It is a well-known fact that the members of the Municipalities do not take such interest in the Municipal work as their electors want them to take. Reports of the Government Gazette will show that. If the two years' life is difficult for a member to bear, certainly three years is much more difficult.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ.

There may be members who will be quite willing to work for 3 years.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

It is, therefore, that I say that fresh men should come into the Council. The member's work is purely honorary, and it is very difficult to come across, in our Municipalities in the State,

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with men who have so much leisure at their command that they work honorary for three years at a stretch.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ.

Such people need not go to the Council.

PRESIDENT.

But supposing they are elected for three years, it is open to them to resign before three years, stating that he is unable to continue.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

Of course, I know that. Let us take the statistics. How many members have resigned in the Municipal Councils of the State? Let us see also, how many times the meetings had to be adjourned for want of quorum.

Dr A. R. MENON.

That is more because the new Council came into existence. These are organised Councils.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

I shall prove that it is otherwise. If you go through the Government Gazettes, you will find in many Councils they had to adjourn the meetings many a time for want of quorum. While there are 21 members in the Council, the attendance at meetings is only 7 or 8 or 9.

PRESIDENT.

That does not show that a Chairman should not be appointed for a period of three years.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

It is true that the Chairman and Councillors take a good deal of interest at the beginning, but when an year passes, these people lose all interest in Municipal work. They never attend the meeting.

PRESIDENT.

But then what is your argument to cut the term of the Chairman by one year?

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

There are other considerations. The election business is a very difficult one. When we consider these election difficulties alone, we may think it is better that we extend the term of the Chairman. But this is not the ground depended upon for the extension of the term of the Chairman. On the other hand, my belief is that the extension of the term would not make the administration less efficient than it is now. The mover argues that the term of the Chairman should be extended

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to three years, because, if he takes up a scheme at present, his term ends before it is completed. In short, a two years' period is insufficient for a Chairman to draw up and carry out any scheme. Sir, in Cochin more Diwans than one have been appointed for three years and even for smaller periods, and they have administered the country much better than the Chairmen have administered the Municipalities.

PRESIDENT.

But then, you see, many of their schemes have been left incomplete.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

What is the comparison between a State and a Municipality? The income of a Municipality comes at the greatest only to Rs. 80,000, whereas that of a State comes to eighty lakhs. Of this eighty thousand, one half goes for the pay of the servants. A good portion goes for road-work. In fact, very little remains for schemes. There is absolutely no scheme to be taken up in any of our Municipalities. If any scheme has to be taken up or any work has to be done, there is the Engineer member. Further, the Chairman is not a new man to the Council. He is expected to know the wants of the town. He goes there not as a new man but as one who has studied the wants of the Municipality. It would not take him even one hour to draw up schemes. If he could not do that he need not stand for Chairmanship. He need not be elected as a Chairman.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

I second the motion proposed by Mr. Ouseph.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

Certain allegations made by the Member for Chalakkudi without knowing the real facts of the situation, that the members are not taking even a casual interest in Municipal affairs are unfounded. It is said that the Council have had to adjourn meetings for want of quorum. During the time when I was the Chairman of the Trichur Municipality, not a meeting was adjourned for want of quorum, and the proportion of the Councillors attending the meetings was something about 75 per cent. This was going on for 14 months for the time I was the Chairman. I am satisfied, if I can carry on the administration for 14 months, I can certainly carry on for 36 months. It appears to me that it depends to a very great extent on the attitude of the Chairman, the respect and consideration that he shows to the Councillors and his ability to persuade them to work in co-operation with him. It is not a question of ability; it is a question of

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good nature; not of efficiency but of good citizenship —the desire to do something good for the general public.

According to the Member for Chalakkudi, every man in the Municipal Council was a budding Chairman. He goes a step further, and thinks that he could launch forth all his schemes immediately; he goes to take part in the administration of the Municipality. I submit that it is a mental ability which can only be exhibited by a well-trained acute legal mind. For an ordinary man, it will take one year to study the procedure, the correspondence, etc., and also the ins and outs of Municipal administration. These things are learned only by actual experience. You place schemes before the Council. The Government perfectly knows how much time it takes for the Municipality to get sanction; and when sanction is obtained for certain amounts, it is the duty of the Councillors to see that the Municipal funds entrusted to their care are properly spent for public purposes, and naturally they exercise vigilant care. Take one instance. I began some 18 or 19 months ago, requesting the Government to hand over a plot of ground round the Temple *maidan*. The Government naturally took a lot of time to consider the matter, and they came to the conclusion that the request does not conflict with Devaswam interests. After 10 or 11 months I got a reply to that effect. I am sure that the argument that, because our income is very small, we need not take much time is beside the point. We are there to see that the Council income is utilised to the fullest benefit of the public. With the opinion of the Council we undertake various schemes to improve the sanitary and material comfort generally of town life. All this takes time; so that it is only fair and reasonable to think that the Chairman can begin actual work only the 2nd year. He may be able to complete some work which is worth doing only after that. It is only on this consideration that I recommended to the Government that the tenure of office of the Chairman should be extended to three years. 'I consulted the Council also in the matter. The Council consists of 21 members representing all communities and sects, and all of them supported the view that three years in essential. I submit these are the real facts of the case. I believe about 75 or 80 per cent of those interested in Municipal affairs will agree with the view that three years is essential for a Chairman to do anything worth the name.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Sir, I rise to support the amendment and to oppose the extension of the period of the Chairman to three years. The argument brought forward is that it will take one year at least for a

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Chairman to understand the work of the office and the Municipal administration, to understand the rottenness of the machinery, and so on. At the same time, Sir, I cannot forget the fact that the Chairman may come to the Municipality with a very small majority, and he may have a very hard time in the Council. We have had such experience in the Mattancheri Council. Sometimes a Chairman who is not pleasing to the Council is elected. He has his vested rights. He may stick on to the vested rights, in spite of the fact that censure motions are passed. In that case, the sooner the Chairman's term ends, the better for all. So, that aspect of the question must not be lost sight of. The Council should not be forced to endure with the term of an unwelcome Chairman for a longer period than they generally have to. Now, by extending the term such a contingency may also arise. Only one Council has sat under the new Regulation, and the second Council is only coming into existence. It is too premature for us to say that any particular scheme that has been enunciated or initiated by a particular Chairman has not been carried out. We have not heard any member, neither the mover nor the supporter, state any particular scheme which a particular Chairman has initiated, and which he could not successfully leave to his successor to deal with. Sir, if a Chairman with good qualities, as mentioned by the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakkuda, exercises his function to the satisfaction of the members of the Council, what would be the result? He would be certainly re-elected with greater honour to carry out the scheme. I certainly ask the Chairman to stand upon the judgment of the voters than upon the power conferred upon them. If, upon their goodwill, a Chairman is returned time after time, that will be a greater honour to him than to stick to his appointment like a leech for three years, even when he is not wanted. There would be difficulties coming in the way, if we extend the term. We had one particular instance in the Mattancheri Town. The Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakkuda said that in his Council they moved in perfect unison, because they all agree to fight with the Government. That was their policy.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

That was not what I said.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I shall refer to his speech. I will not make any statement of which I am not sure. (*Laughter.*) These must also be considered when we take the provisions of the amendment into consideration. I think it is too soon to amend the Regulation of 1096. This is not the last word that is to be said in the

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matter. There has not been any report by the Government or the controlling authorities to the effect that schemes initiated by the Chairman are not coming to fruition because of the shortness of time. After all, what are the schemes that the Municipalities can have, excepting a water supply scheme, which they will not be able to carry out. Other schemes that they have to initiate are all in the Municipal Regulation. The Municipal Regulation lays down the scope of their activities, and those activities certainly do not require three years to carry out. They have to burn the rubbish from the roads, etc. In the matter of constructing roads they have not much to do for three years. Even if not completed, the alignment is there, and the sanctioned money also will come, whoever be the Chairman. What is the other great scheme that the Municipality has to initiate in three years' time?

This extension of time has also another defect. It will curtail the rights of the voters. Many a voter may have an idea of becoming a Chairman. We must give them also as many chances as possible to come and do what they can in the Municipality. So, if you extend the term of the Chairman, the chances of others will be limited. I would like to have the period reduced to one year, because we know, even in big cities in Europe and America, Governments fail within few months of office—sometimes even in a few days—,after they have come into power. In these days, in a self-governing institution, I think it would not be advisable to extend the term. In my humble view an extension of the term of a Chairman to three years is not at all necessary.

PRESIDENT.

There are 2 amendments. The first in order is in respect of clauses 2 and 3—to substitute 2 years instead of 3. The amendment has been moved and seconded.

The amendment was then put to the vote and lost.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

I demand that a poll may be taken.

The division showed that there were 4 for the amendment and 23 against.

Ayes.

1	Mr. George Chakyamuri	3	Mr. C. A. Ouseph
2	„ C. A. Kunjunni Raja	4	„ A. B. Salem

Noes.

1	Mr. C. Achyuta Menon	5	Mr. P. Damodara Menon
2	„ K. Achyuta Menon	6	„ A. Eachara Menon
3	„ I. E. Ambcokan	7	Dr. A. G. Menon
4	„ V. K. Aravindaksha Menon	8	Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar

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9	Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar	16	Mr. C. Matthai
10	Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon	17	,, S. F. Nunez
11	,, S. S. Koder	18	,, N. Padmanabha Menon
12	,, M. Krishna Menon	19	,, I. Rama Menon
13	,, T. K. Krishna Menon	20	Dr. A. R. Menon
14	,, K. Krishna Pisharodi	21	Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
15	,, P. Kunju Muhammad	22	,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
		23	Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

PRESIDENT.

The second amendment before the House I shall now put to vote.

The amendment was put to the House and lost.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

I want a poll, Sir.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

1	Mr. K. Achyuta Menon	6	Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon
2	,, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon	7	,, K. Krishna Pisharodi
3	,, P. Damodara Menon	8	,, C. Matthai
4	Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar	9	,, I. Rama Menon
5	Mr. K. P. Karuppan	10	,, Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
		11	,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar

Noes.

1	Mr. I. E. Ambookan	9	Mr. Lonppan Chakkola
2	,, O. R. Chummar	10	,, K. T. Mathew
3	,, A. Eachara Menon	11	,, C. A Ouseph
4	,, George Chakyamuri	12	,, N. Padmanabha Menon
5	,, E Ikkanda Wariar	13	,, Poulo Mampilli
6	,, V. K. Kochunni Menon	14	,, K. S. Rama Ayyar
7	,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja	15	Dr. A. R. Menon
8	,, P. Kunju Muhammad	16	Mr. A. B. Salem
		17	,, A. Kuria Thoma

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

I beg to move that the Bill be taken up for consideration and passed on Friday, the 23rd Makaram 1101.

Mr. I. E. AMBOOKAN.

I second it

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

Resolutions on Matters of General Public Interest.

PRESIDENT.

The next item is the continuation of the discussion of the resolution moved by Mr. Nunez, with regard to the compulsory teaching of Temperance in schools. We will now continue the discussion.

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